IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

As represented in Figure 3, therefore, in the event that the processing unit 22 is identified as being faulty, then the processing unit 22 is removed and is replaced by a corresponding processing unit 22' that performs an equivalent function. As such the hard disk 26' of the replacement processing unit 22' will typically have the same software as that loaded onto the hard disk of the original, and now faulty, processing unit 22. The arrow 28 represents the replacement unit 22' replacing the original processing unit 22 to perform the same function of the original processing unit 22 thereby minimising the downtime. The corresponding processing unit 22' includes a corresponding motherboard 24', corresponding hard disk 26', and corresponding receiving gap 32'.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Alternatively, if, in step 184, it is determined that the information read from the secure memory location in step 182 corresponds to the written information, then it is assumed that write attempt was not successful, and then decision path 188 is followed. At this point it is then assumed that the portable data device was not a secure smart card of the type described, and accordingly decision path 188 is followed. As a result of following decision path 188, action is taken in step 189 such that the processing unit could be configured to power itself down, or alternatively to use the network address from NV RAM in accordance with steps 90 and 92 of Figures 5 and 6.

2